



HEADTEACHER

Mark E Garbett MA M.Ed NPQH

e-mail: office@latymer.co.uk
Homepage: www.latymer.co.uk

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

As you may be aware from reports in the media, nationally there has been an increase in the incidence of Swine Flu.

We now have reported cases of Swine Flu in our school, as is the case for several Enfield schools. On the basis of Health Protection Agency advice, the Local Authority has recommended that schools in Enfield **do not** close, because the virus is circulating within the community and therefore closing schools would not help to slow the spread of the virus as people could still be exposed outside the school.

The HPA and NHS Enfield have also stressed that:

- the vast majority of people who have had swine flu in the UK have experienced mild symptoms and made a rapid and full recovery
- a small minority has had more severe illness, and these have been patients with underlying health conditions.

Any pupils or staff who develop flu-like symptoms should stay at home and let the school know. For health advice they should contact NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or phone their GP. They should **not** go to the GP surgery or local A&E department as this may spread the illness to others. General advice is also available on the swine flu information line on 0800 1513 513.

Due to the number of new or suspected cases now arising it is likely that formal swabbing and confirmation of cases will cease shortly. GPs will be expected to make a clinical judgment based on an analysis of symptoms and advise patients in that way.

Parents and the school should continue to encourage and practice good hygiene. This includes frequent hand washing, cleaning hard surfaces and using and disposing of tissues.

Our staff are not able to give further advice. Some pupils may be more vulnerable to the disease, such as those with impaired immune systems. It is not possible to give general advice for these individuals; we advise parents to contact their own GP or consultant for specific advice.

Yours sincerely

Mark E Garbett
Headteacher